

The instant application claims priority based on two Japanese Patent Applications: Japanese Patent Application. No. P11-179290, filed June 25, 1999, and Japanese Patent Application. No. 2000-005116, filed January 14, 2000. As can be seen, beginning at page 10, paragraph [0027] of the certified English translation of Japanese Application No. 11-179290, the

first application discloses forming a thin film, where the starting material used to form a single layer is fullerene. This first application was filed before the filing date of the Yamada *et al.* patent. Therefore, as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 119, the first application forms the basis for removing the Yamada *et al.* patent as a reference. Therefore, the rejection of claims 12-17 and 19-24, as being unpatentable over a combination of Yamada *et al.* in view of Banks should be withdrawn.

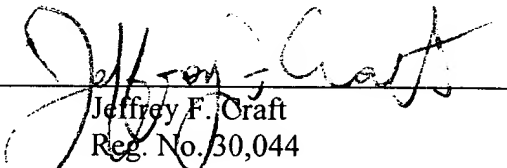
### CONCLUSION

In light of the certified English translation of Japanese Application No. 11-179290 and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, so that a prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL


By:

  
Jeffrey F. Craft  
Reg. No. 30,044

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL  
P.O. Box #061080  
Wacker Drive Station  
Sears Tower  
Chicago, IL 60606-6404  
(213) 623-9300

I hereby certify that this document and any fee being referred to as attached or enclosed is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

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Kathleen Gaines